



STATE OF THE WORLD SCORECARD



**2024 CONFERENCE FOR
GLOBAL TRANSFORMATION**

In a Dance with Word

May 17 – 19, 2024

STATE OF THE WORLD SCORECARD

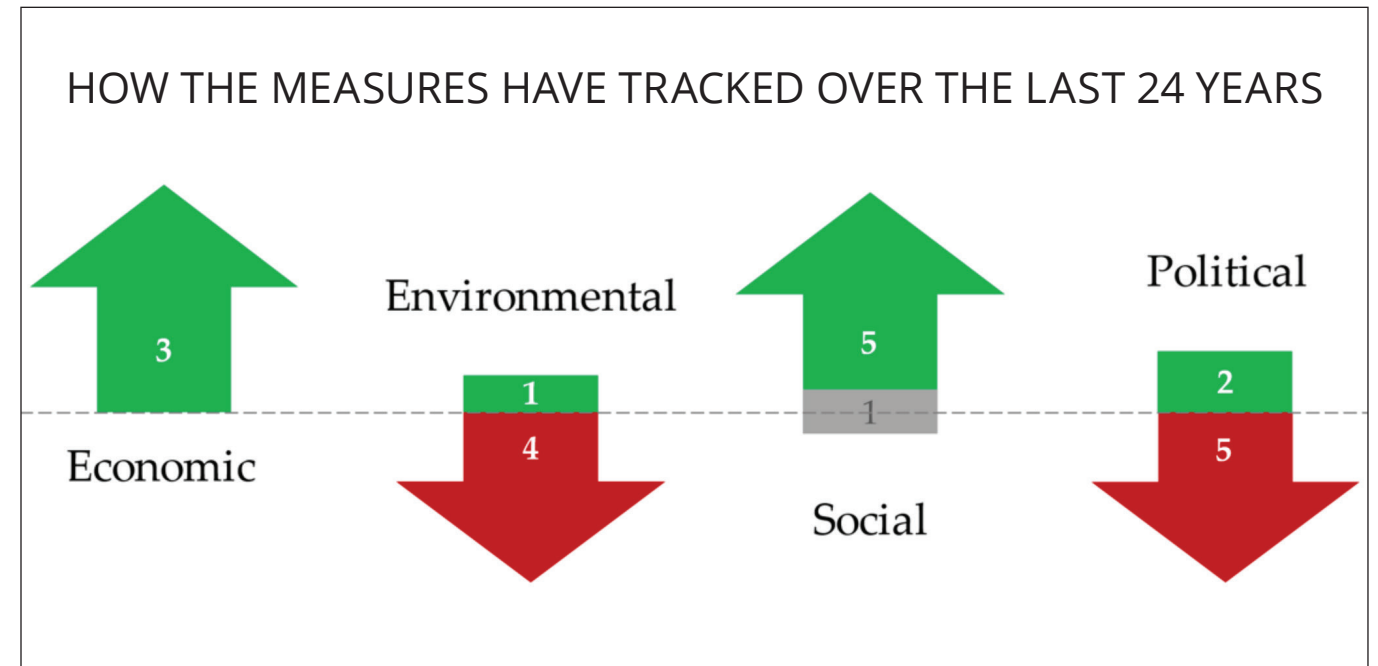
The purpose of this scorecard is to represent the “state of the world,” by showing global outcomes that would likely change were global transformation to occur.

Measurement tracks change, not transformation. When a caterpillar transforms into a butterfly, it ceases being one thing and becomes another. You can infer the transformation by measuring differences in the mass, color, and shape of the caterpillar and the butterfly, but you aren't measuring transformation. The transformation is simply, “There used to be a caterpillar, and now there is a butterfly.” This scorecard's measures aspire to reveal changes that could point to transformation in the world. The scorecard is intended to empower a profound relationship to “what's so,” both generally and in the details, and to track progress over the last 24 years.

Questions you could ask include:

“How does progress with this measure align with my commitment for the world?”

“What actions can I take in this area to make a difference?”



The numbers above show the number of measures in each category that are “improving,” “worsening,” or for which there is no significant change (gray), according to the reporting organizations.

How the Measures Have Tracked Over the Last 24 Years

The format of the scorecard was updated in 2021 based on feedback from participants in scorecard workshops at the conference and a survey of conference participants that year. That survey indicated that many, though not all, of the commitments of participants in the Conference for Global Transformation are connected to these measures.

The measures are presented in four groups: Economic, Environmental, Social, and Political. The charts for the 21 scorecard measures at the global level are based on data for the available countries. The number of countries comprising the global measure is noted parenthetically in each graph's legend.

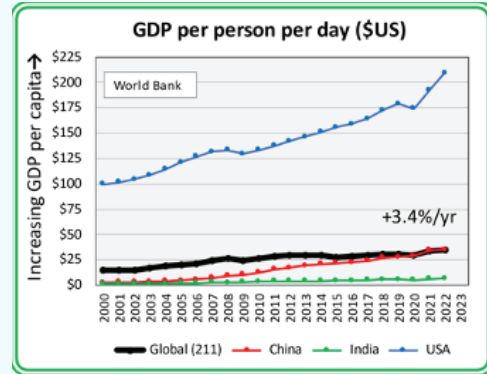
The charts also display lines for the individual metrics for the three most populous countries (China, India, and United States) which represent

40 percent of the global population. Data on these three countries is intended to give some insight into the diversity of both the direction and velocity of change for each of the metrics.

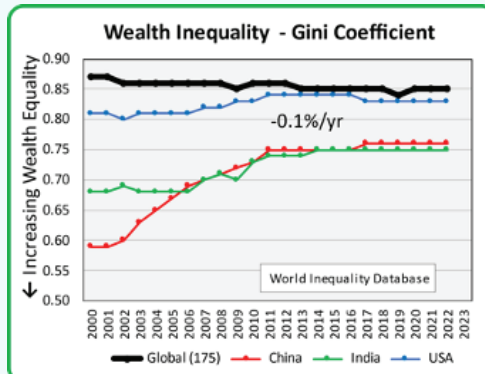
Anyone who has a commitment to make a difference in the world can determine which measures – and which methods of tracking data and trends – will be the most useful to them.

Charts of the Scorecard Measures

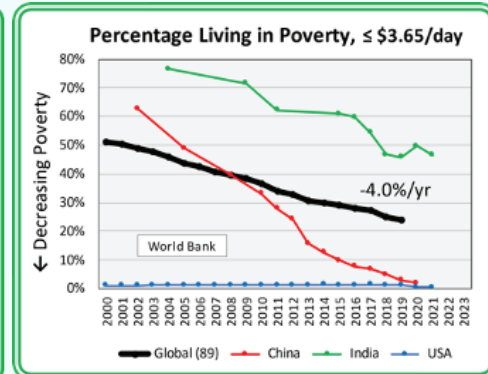
ECONOMIC MEASURES



<https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.PCAP.CD>

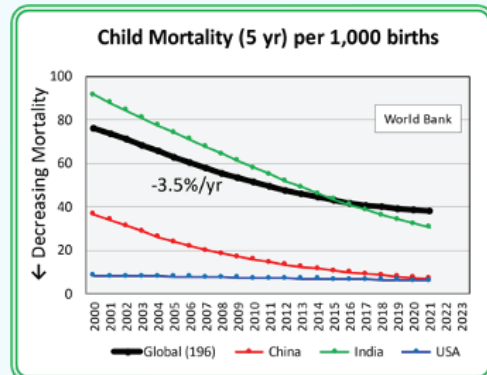


<https://wid.world/data/>

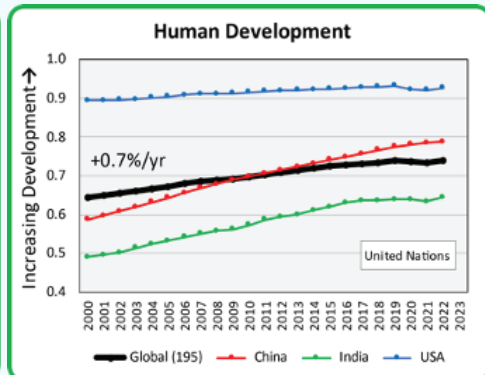


<https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SI.POV.LMIC>

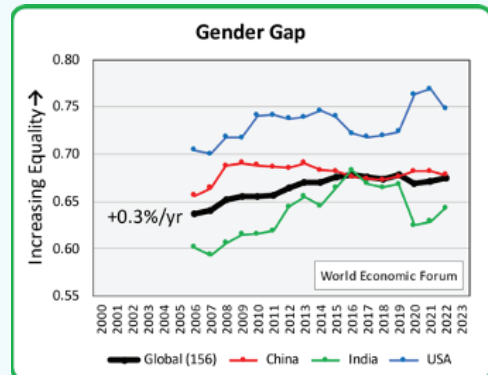
SOCIAL MEASURES



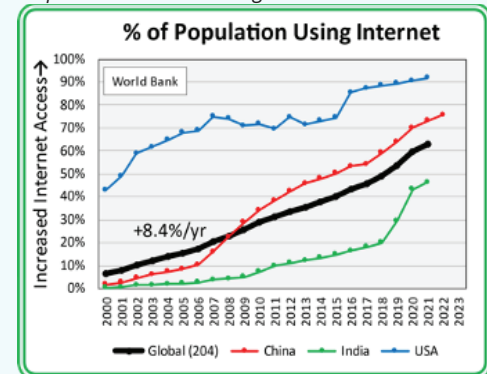
<https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SH.DYN.MORT>



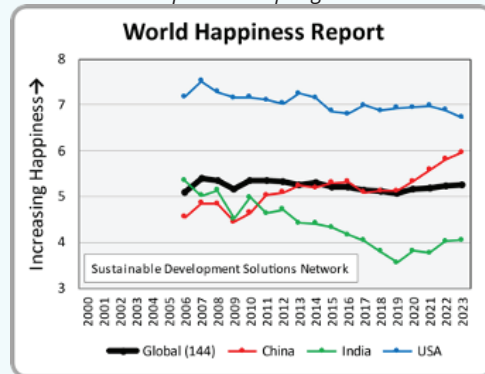
<http://hdr.undp.org/en>



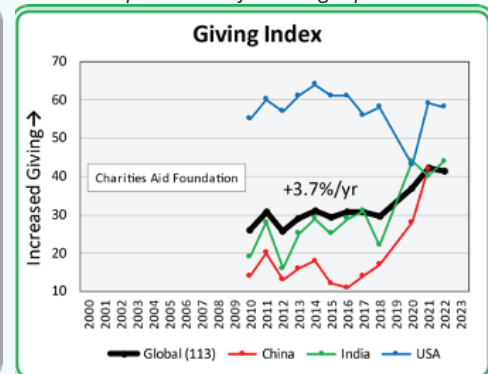
<https://www.weforum.org/reports>



<https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/IT.NET.USER.ZS>

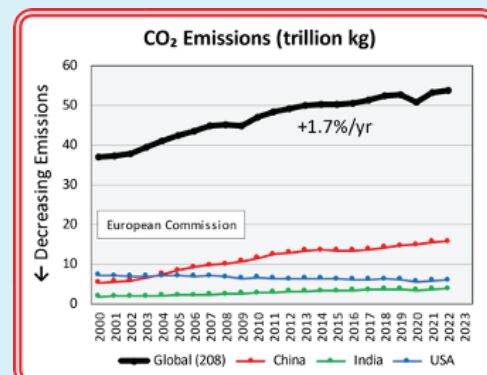


<https://worldhappiness.report>

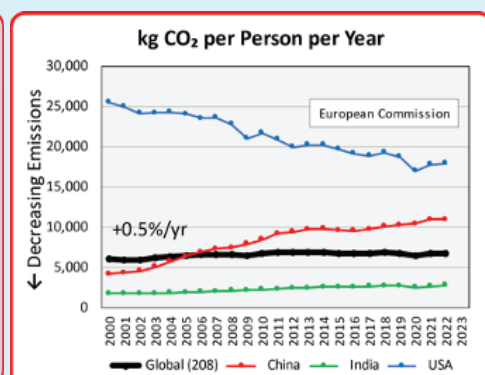


<https://www.cafonline.org/about-us/research>

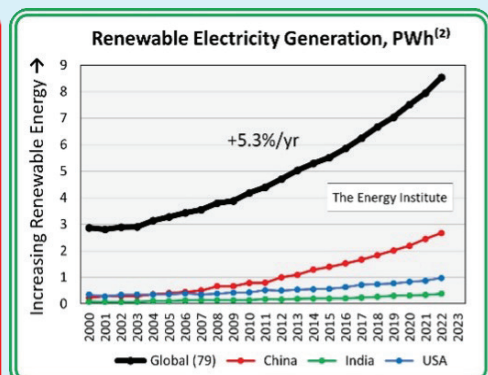
ENVIRONMENTAL MEASURES



<https://edgar.jrc.ec.europa.eu/overview.php?v=booklet2020>



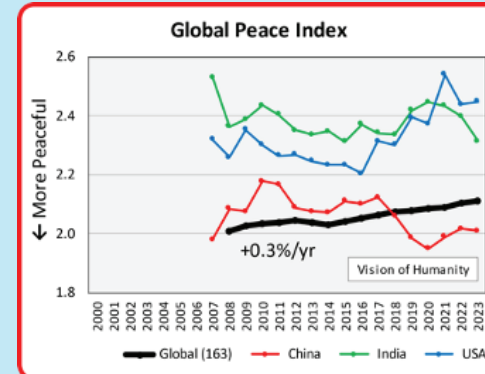
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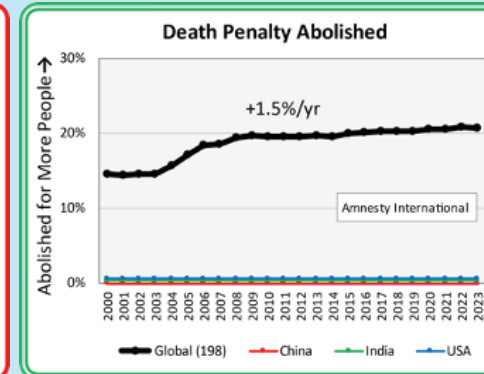
<https://www.energyinst.org/statistical-review>

(Charts of the Scorecard Measures continued)

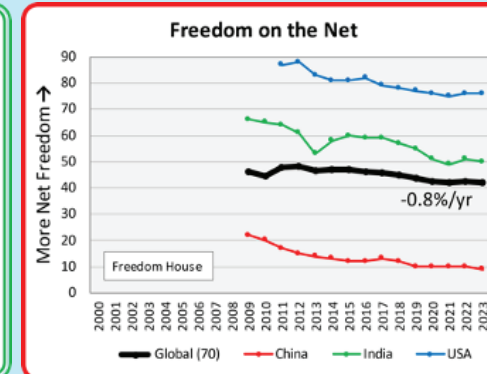
POLITICAL MEASURES



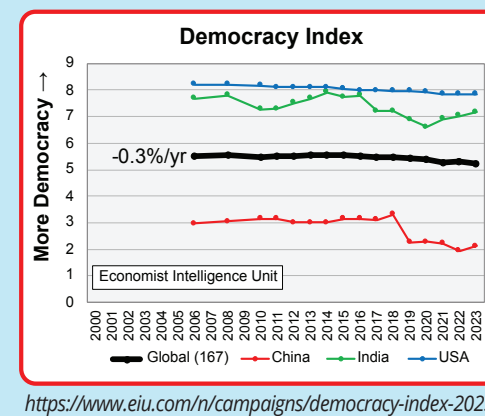
<http://visionofhumanity.org/indexes/global-peace-index/>



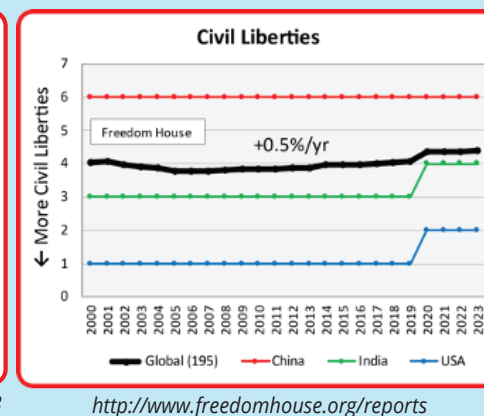
<http://www.amnesty.org/en/what-we-do/death-penalty/>



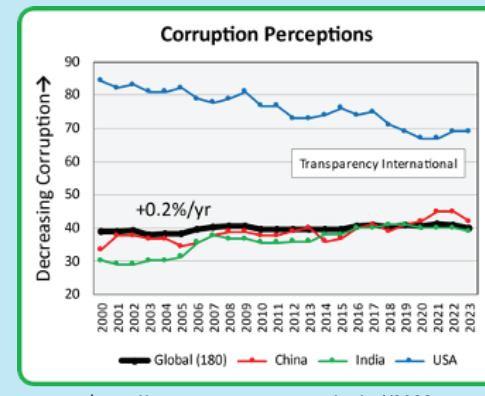
<http://www.freedomhouse.org/reports>



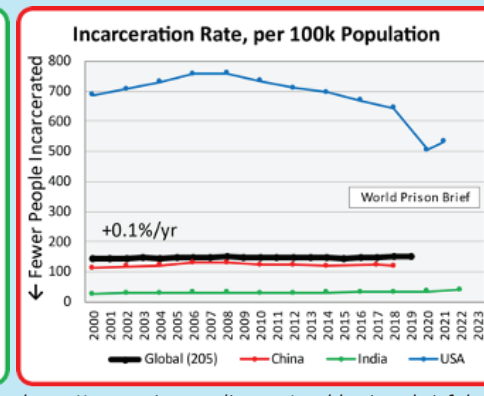
<https://www.eiu.com/n/campaigns/democracy-index-2023>



<http://www.freedomhouse.org/reports>

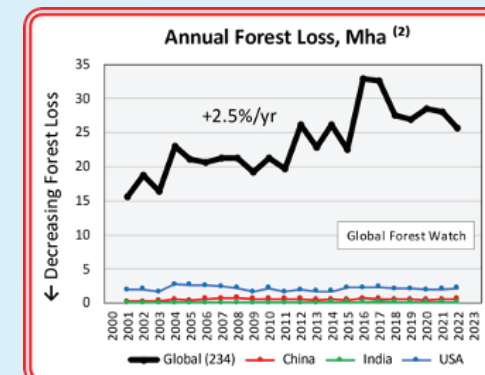


<https://www.transparency.org/en/cpi/2023>

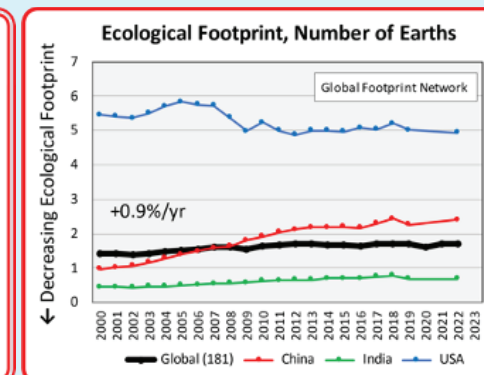


<https://www.prisonstudies.org/world-prison-brief-data>

ENVIRONMENTAL MEASURES (CONTINUED)



www.globalforestwatch.org/dashboards/global



<https://www.footprintnetwork.org/resources/data/>

NOTES

- The horizontal axis on all the charts covers the 24 years from 2000 to 2023.
- A legend under each graph indicates the number of countries[†] that comprise the global metric, generally all for which data are available. For instance, "Global (211)" means 211 countries[†] comprise that particular global metric.
- Where a worldwide metric is published, that is used for the global data.
- Absent a worldwide metric, global data are the population-weighted averages⁽¹⁾ for the included countries.
- The vertical axis on each chart spans the range of values for the global, China, India, and U.S. measures.
- For each graph, the arrow in the vertical axis title always points in the "good" direction.^{††}
- Green border indicates that the global trend is moving in a "good" direction;^{††} red border indicates a "bad" direction.^{††}
- Gray border indicates that the global change is not statistically significant.
- Double border indicates that the measure is changing faster than the rate of population growth (1.1%).
- The $\pm\%/yr$ on each chart represents the global rate of change over the period estimated by least-squares regression.

[†] the number of "countries" may include territories selected for reporting by the institution collecting the data

^{††} "good" and "bad" are defined by the institution collecting the data; "good" = intended direction

Notes About the Scorecard

Measures selected by the Scorecard Team are published by respected organizations that specialize in their subject areas and use rigorous methods for data collection and analysis. Measures are selected that use the same methodology over many years so that valid comparisons can be made over time. In order to create a broad and manageable view of the world, several of the measures are indices. These combine multiple discrete/direct measures in a specific interest area into an index being tracked. For most of these indices, the component values are also published. As discussed below, regarding averages, indices necessarily aggregate detail, during which important elements of the underlying data can be lost. Anyone with a commitment in a particular arena is encouraged to explore the source data for components which may be much more aligned with their specific intention. Links to the data sources are provided under the charts of each of the scorecard metrics. Details of the measures and the key questions they address are tabulated below. Population data are sourced from the World Bank database <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.TOTL>.

Global metrics from the source organizations are used whenever they are provided. If a global metric is unavailable, global measures are calculated as population-weighted averages. The exceptions are the measures for CO₂ Emissions and Annual Forest Loss, which are aggregate totals for the world, based on all published countries. Additionally, the measure for Death Penalty Abolished is the percentage of the population (of a country or the world) for whom the death penalty has been abolished by law.

Measures are categorized as Political (rather than Social) when they are primarily attributable to government policy.

Trends and significance are estimated using least-squares regression over the full period of the dataset. Trends are inferred to be significant based on a Student's (t) two-tailed likelihood of

less than 0.05 based on the standard error of the fit coefficient. This single treatment appropriately evaluates the significance of the overall trend in the global data but does not adequately describe the behavior of several scorecard metrics. Some changed rapidly in the first 10 years of scorecard tracking and have changed little since (e.g., Death Penalty, Gini index); others are changing at a greater rate only recently (e.g., Freedom on the Net). For other measures, a global trend may obscure divergent behavior among countries (e.g., CO₂ per Person per Year and Corruption Perceptions). If a measure reflects an outcome to which you are committed, having a powerful relationship with that outcome is enabled by building a deeper understanding of the data over time and across the world. You are encouraged to visit the primary sources of the data and explore.

	MEASURE	WHAT IT IS	QUESTIONS IT ADDRESSES
ECONOMIC	GDP/Person/Day	Total value of goods and services produced per person per day	Are global economies strong enough to pull people out of poverty and provide a good standard of living for all?
	% Living in Poverty	% of the population living on less than \$3.65/day, adjusted by country for purchasing power parity	How many people don't have the resources to live decent, fulfilling lives?
	Wealth Inequality, Gini Index	How greatly the distribution of wealth deviates from an equal distribution	Is the distribution of wealth fair or is the gap between people too big or small?
ENVIRONMENTAL	CO ₂ Emissions	Total CO ₂ emitted from all sources	How are we doing reducing CO ₂ ? Who's leading & lagging?
	CO ₂ Emissions per Person	Total CO ₂ divided by population	How are our individual carbon footprints changing?
	Renewable Electricity Generation	Electricity generated from renewable & hydroelectric sources	How fast is generation moving to renewable sources?
	Annual Forest Loss	Area of forest lost where tree canopy >30%	Are we preserving the trees that produce oxygen, moderate the climate and regulate water cycles?
	Ecological Footprint	Resources consumed for food, shelter, transportation including carbon footprint	Are we consuming too many natural resources for future generations to thrive?
POLITICAL	Global Peace	A composite of 23 measures of conflict, criminality, and violence	How secure is our society from crime, violence, and war?
	Death Penalty	% of population for whom the death penalty has been abolished by law	How many live free from the threat of execution by their government?
	Freedom on the Net	A composite of 12 measures of access, content control, and user rights	Can people communicate, express, and create freely on the internet without interference?
	Democracy Index	A composite of 60 measures of electoral integrity, political participation, governance, and liberties	Are our systems of government representative, effective, fair, and inclusive?
	Civil Liberties	A composite of 15 measures of individual freedoms and rule of law	Are people free to live and express without suppression or inequity?
	Corruption Perceptions	Standardized assessment of risk of corruption assembled from 12 sources	How corrupt are our governments?
	Incarceration Rate	Total number of incarcerated persons, sentenced or being held, per 100,000 population	How many in a society have had their freedoms suspended by their government?
SOCIAL	Child Mortality	The number of children who die before age 5 per 1,000 births	How well are women's and children's health being addressed?
	Human Development	The UN HDI index composed of income, life expectancy & educational attainment	How much opportunity do people have to grow and develop physically, educationally, economically?
	Gender Gap	A composite of 14 measures of gender equity across health, education, and economic domains	Do women and men have equal opportunities to prosper in politics, business, education, and health?
	% of Population Using Internet	% of population using the internet in the last 3 months	Who can benefit from using the internet and who is left out?
	Happiness Report	Self-report of subjective well-being, life satisfaction and positive emotion	Are people experiencing well-being and satisfaction with their lives?
	Giving Index	An index of contributions of money or time to benefit others	How generous are we being with others?

2024 Scorecard Comments

Changes in the composition of the scorecard measures are made periodically by the Scorecard Team. Measures may be dropped when they are retired by the source organization or their underlying methodology becomes unreliable. Measures may be added when significant shifts in the conversation of what is possible for humanity call for new measures to reflect that.

SCORECARD CHANGES THIS YEAR

Five changes to the set of measures in the scorecard were made this year.

1. Incarceration Rate added

Incarceration Rate has been included this year as a scorecard metric. In addition to meeting the fundamental criteria for being a scorecard metric (an outcome, tracked consistently over time by a respected organization that we would expect to change as global transformation occurs), a number of conference participants have commitments in the area of incarceration.

2. Democracy Index replaces Political Rights

The Political Rights measure has been replaced by the Democracy Index. The Democracy Index has a larger set of components than Political Rights (60 vs. 10), is reported to higher resolution, and includes an overall global metric. The Democracy Index also introduces another organization's perspective (Economist Intelligence Unit), while maintaining the perspective of the Freedom House organization (in the Civil Liberties and Freedom on the Net measures).

3. Environmental Performance Index removed

This index is no longer reported on the scorecard. Although this index comprises many metrics across broad environmental topics, it does not meaningfully track comparisons over time as is the intention of the scorecard. The organization that publishes the metric cautions, "With every version of the EPI, we change the methodology and use new datasets to reflect the latest advances in science and metrics. These changes mean that scores calculated under the old methods are not comparable to the new scores."

4. Renewable Energy modified

Two modifications to the representation of the metrics have been made this year. First, the reporting of Renewable Energy Generation has been changed from aggregate energy in TWh (10^{12} watt-hours) to the percentage of total electricity generation from renewable sources. This change was made to give a more balanced picture of sustainability as both total energy generation and renewable energy generation continue to increase.

5. Ecological Footprint modified⁽¹⁾

The second modification to the representation of the metrics was to represent the Ecological Footprint as the "Number of Earths" (that is, how many Earths would be required to sustainably support the global population if the same amount of resources were consumed at the same level as that country). This is a change from the "hectare per capita" that had been shown in prior years. This change is also intended to give a more balanced view of both changes in consumption of biocapacity as well as changes in available biocapacity.

EFFECTS OF THE PANDEMIC

The COVID-19 pandemic was an extraordinary circumstance over recent years and some trends in the scorecard are likely connected to its societal disruption. For example, before 2020, the global United Nations Human Development Index (HDI) had increased every year since it began to be published in 1990. Both 2020 and 2021 saw unprecedented decreases in the global HDI; this may be related to the pandemic since the components of the index were broadly impacted (educational attainment, life expectancy, and GDP per capita). Notably, in this year's scorecard the 2022 HDI rebounded and recovered to its 2019 value. Decreases in CO₂ emissions and GDP observed in 2020 were also likely related to the pandemic and have rebounded in subsequent years.

The perturbations in many other measures over this period may be more complex and challenging to understand. Although the connection to the pandemic isn't clear, it is notable that the aggregate trend of the set of social metrics continues to improve, and the aggregate trend of the political metrics continues to worsen.

LIMITATIONS OF THE SCORECARD

Limitations are important to keep in mind. Great attention is paid by the Scorecard Team to selecting sources of data that are rigorous and reliable; nevertheless, any measurement has inherent uncertainty and is subject to unconscious or conscious bias. Country to country reporting may vary due to a variety of factors, such as degree of governmental or other mis-representation, different internal applications of measurement methodologies, difficulty of measuring in underdeveloped regions or with such phenomena as the pandemic, and other factors. Gaps occur in some measures where population and/or metric data are either unavailable or unreliable. Examples include the absence of data for most metrics from North Korea, the lack of reliable data from conflict areas such as Ukraine, and challenges in obtaining country metrics that account for refugee populations. It is important to study organizational reports for how limitations have been addressed to ensure as much rigor, accuracy and reliability as possible.

CAREFUL INTERPRETATION IS REQUIRED

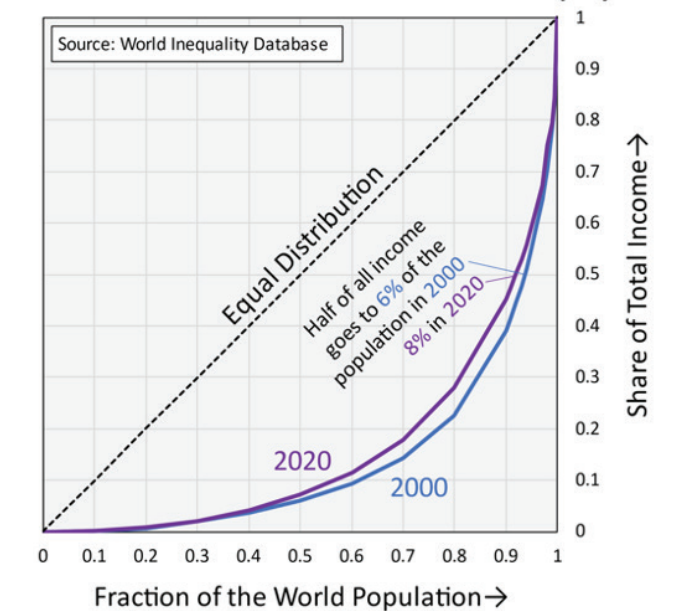
Careful interpretation should be made of the charts. A green border does not necessarily mean "good" – it only indicates that the global trend is moving in the direction intended by the institution producing the metric. For example, Percentage Living in Poverty continues to trend down globally, so that graph has a double-green border. A closer look reveals, however, that around 25 percent of the global population is living in poverty. That is nearly 2 billion people. Additionally, both hunger and poverty have recently moved counter to their long-term trend.⁽²⁾ These divergences for poverty and hunger point to the risk of drawing broad conclusions from a few aggregate indicators and long-term trends. If you have a commitment in this area, it may be easy to be misled by the double green (e.g., "good" or "improving") border.

To interpret the metrics powerfully, it is also critical to understand how each measure is defined. Continuing with Percentage Living in Poverty, the global reference figure of \$3.65/day on the graph is a global threshold derived from 2017 poverty lines in countries classified as Lower Middle Income by the World Bank. (For Upper Middle Income countries, the threshold is \$6.85 a day.) These figures are adjusted by the World Bank for inflation

over time and for each country based on the cost of living in local currency. Minimum standards are established for most basic survival needs being met; any established poverty threshold is a minimum level not necessarily reflecting resources needed for a given lifestyle. Developed nations, in general, set their national poverty levels significantly higher, but even with higher thresholds, many individuals and families struggle to meet their needs. This is an example of the importance of understanding how each measure is defined, including variance in definition by different reporting organizations.

The set of economic measures on the scorecard is all green – *globally* there is more wealth, less poverty, and a slight improvement in wealth inequity. Examining the graph for the Gini index, however, reveals that for the largest countries, wealth inequity has increased significantly over the last two decades, and global inequity has not improved in the last 10 years.

Slight Improvements in Global Income Inequality Since 2000 Leave the World Far from Equity



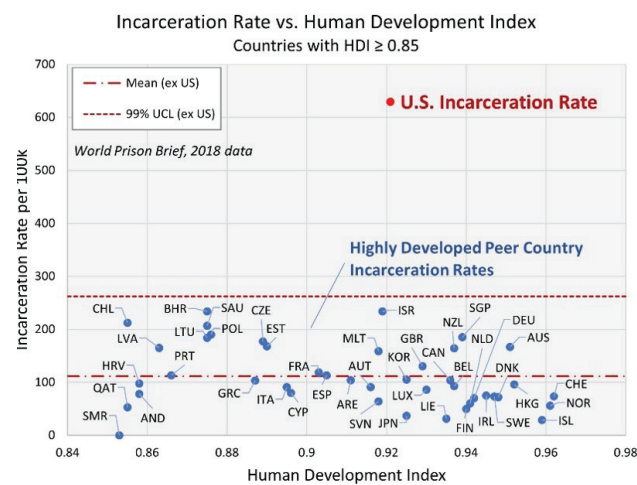
Depending on what your commitment is, you are invited to examine in more depth which measures are relevant and how they are defined. You can go to the source reports which are noted on the scorecard for more information on individual countries and the ways in which these organizations gather, accumulate, and report their data.

The Power of Data Behind the Graphs

The averages shown on the scorecard measure graphs (similar to any averages) can obscure crucial detail and texture that is available in the raw data. Taking a view of the world overall necessarily aggregates and averages numerous individual measurements; generalized conclusions from those macroscopic observations can miss critical details. As an example, consider the new incarceration metric in the scorecard this year. The data represented in the scorecard graph are necessarily aggregated and averaged for large populations over the last 20 years to be displayed in the global scorecard format. If you were committed to transformation in the domain of incarceration, it is likely that insights gained through examination of more detail and information in the data would be empowering, if not essential.

MORE IN-DEPTH EXAMINATION OF INCARCERATION DATA

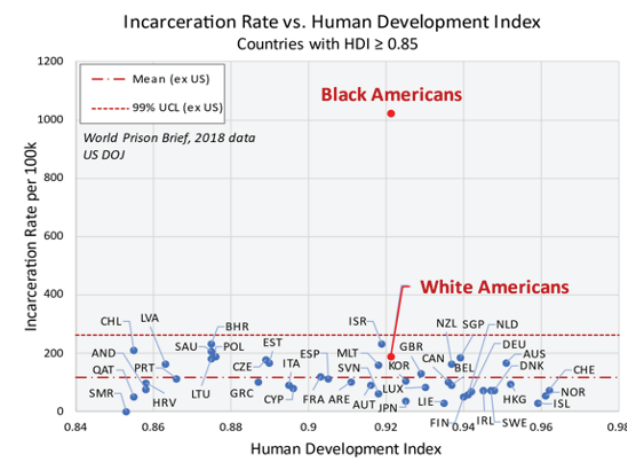
One thing that is clear from the global scorecard graphs is that, among the countries and the world data presented, the incarceration rate in the United States is highest. How does this compare to other developed countries? In the graph below, the incarceration rate for each country is plotted against the country's Human Development Index (HDI is widely used to represent the state of development of a country).



This comparison reveals a notable observation – among all the countries for which data are available

and which have an HDI > 0.85 (highly and very highly developed countries), the United States is a significant outlier. The upper bound of the 99 percent confidence interval (upper confidence limit (UCL) shown on these graphs) for the group of highly developed peer countries is less than half of the observed value for the U.S. This points to a missing factor: such an observation is very unlikely to occur by chance in a sample from a homogeneous population.

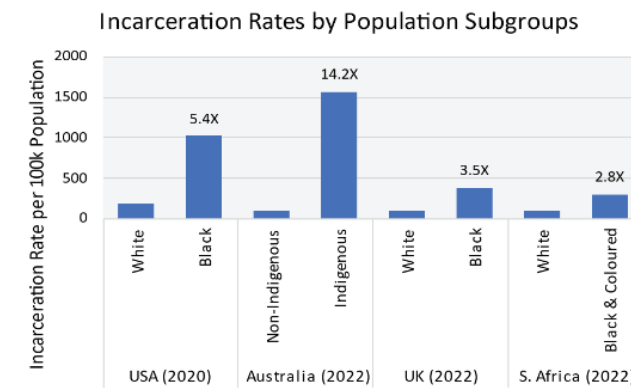
One significant missing factor is not hard to find: when the incarceration rate data for the U.S. are partitioned to include race, another view emerges.



The rate of incarceration experienced by White Americans is not significantly different than the average incarceration rate observed in other highly developed countries. The incarceration rate experienced by Black Americans,⁽³⁾ on the other hand, exceeds that in any of the developed countries shown on this chart by a factor of five. In addition, as reported by the World Prison Brief, the incarceration rate experienced by Black Americans exceeds the highest rate observed for all countries except one, El Salvador, whose Human Development Index is too low to appear on this chart. Clearly, the question you might ask if you are at work on incarceration could shift from, “Why is America’s incarceration rate so high?” to “Why is the incarceration rate so high for Black Americans?” These are different inquiries and are only informed by a deeper look at the data.

Outside the U.S., similar investigations are available from a deeper inquiry. Many national

law enforcement and justice agencies report on incarcerated populations from different ethnic, racial, and religious groups. A few examples are summarized in the following graph, showing four countries.



(World Prison Brief, U.S. Dept. of Justice, Australian Bureau of Statistics, South Africa Dept. of Correctional Services, U.K. Ministry of Justice)

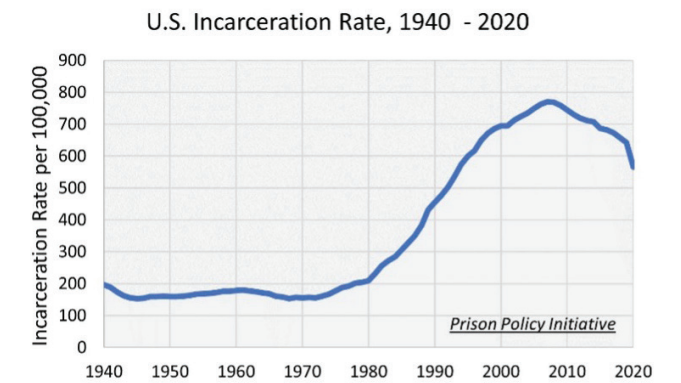
Examining data from other countries shows that the disparity in incarceration rates is a phenomenon not unique to the U.S. As in the U.S., in the United Kingdom and Australia, the respective subgroups with elevated incarceration rates are minorities in the population. In contrast, the “White” population is a minority in South Africa which is approximately 89% “Black & Coloured.” (The terms “White” and “Black & Coloured” are used by the South African government when reporting population demographics and incarcerated persons and are therefore being used here in reporting their data.)

It seems likely that societal wealth and power are among the factors that drive the significant inequities in incarceration rates observed in these (and many other) countries. As a possible correlate, South Africa has the highest Gini index (greatest disparity) for wealth inequality in the world,⁽⁴⁾ which may be an additional outcome of the societal structure and conditions there.

LIMITATIONS OF TIME PERIOD REPORTING

Another boundary on the data found in the scorecard graphs is time. Scorecard metrics are reported from no earlier than 2000. It is often valuable to understand the progression of metrics over longer periods of time (for example the picture of atmospheric CO₂ is very different if examined

over the last 200 years vs. the last 20). Examining the U.S. incarceration rates over a longer timescale is informative, as shown in the following graph.



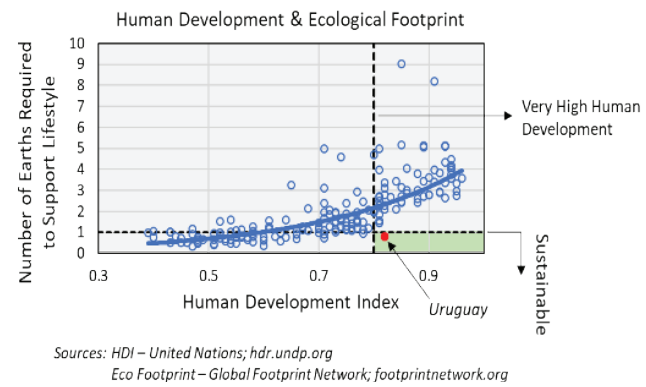
These data indicate that the incarceration rate has been dynamic and changed significantly over the last 80 years. Such observations may lead to questions that can be critical to gain insight into transforming an area to which you are committed. How has racial disparity evolved over the large changes in overall incarceration rate? What societal or policy shifts could be associated with the dramatic rise in rates from the 1980s to the 2000s? Similarly, what shifts could be associated with the 25 percent decline since 2008? Insights that powerfully impact areas to which you are committed may be available if you look beyond the aggregate data readily available and explore the texture of the data over time and in its detail.

You could expect analogous insights to be available in almost all the metrics as you drill down into the detailed data. To be responsible for a promise or commitment in an area almost certainly demands a more profound relationship to “what’s so” than can be realized with aggregated and averaged information.

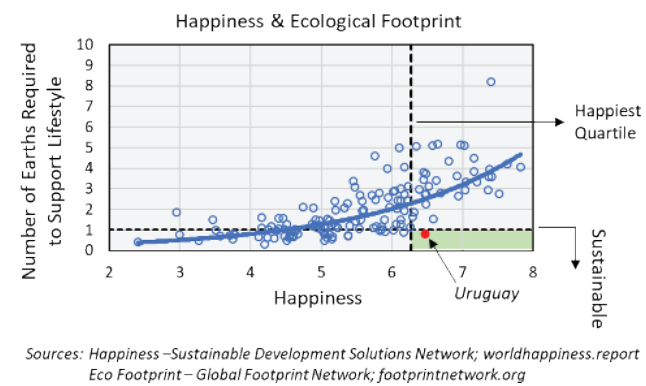
OUTLIERS AND BRIGHT SPOTS

Outliers are often bright spots from which more may be learned than can be seen in overall trends. As an example, measures can be examined together. The Ecological Footprint of a country compares all resources consumed to global resources and can be expressed as the “Number of Earths” required to sustainably support the world’s population, if everyone on the planet had the current lifestyle (consumed the same

average amount of resources) as the people of that country. Comparing that to the Human Development Index (measured by the United Nations, based on income, life expectancy, and educational attainment), a trend can be seen, with sustainability worsening as human development improves.



However, the general trend doesn't apply to every country. Uruguay is the lone occupant of the area of the graph that shows sustainability and very high human development – it's an outlier. Making a similar comparison with reported happiness as assessed in the World Happiness Report, we find a similar trend – happier societies tend to consume more resources.



Once again, Uruguay deviates from the trend and is by itself in the upper quartile of reported happiness with sustainable consumption. Outliers point to places to explore further and suggest questions that could deliver valuable insights including possible best practices; for example, what can be learned, duplicated, and applied from these bright spots? The message in this example is not about these measures or Uruguay,

but rather how developing a powerful relationship to the measures, and the data in the areas to which you are committed, can empower your insights and actions.

ARE THERE GLOBAL BRIGHT SPOTS?

Global bright spots could be countries where the measures are consistently high across economic, environmental, political, and social domains. Can such places be seen in the data? Can inquiring into what makes a difference in those places provide insights for your own commitments?

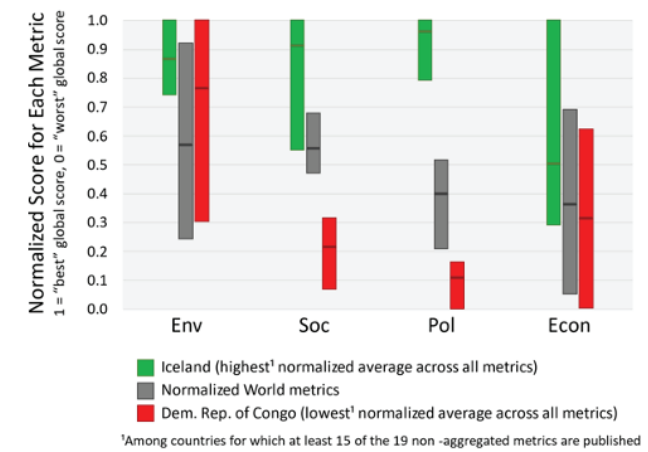
A global bright spot would be a country that is an outlier across all metrics – economic, environmental, political, and social. An analysis was undertaken to determine whether such bright spots exist. For this analysis, to enable comparisons across both metrics and countries, each metric was normalized based on a scale of 0 to 1 with 1 being assigned to the value of the metric for the country with the “best” score and 0 for the country with the “worst” score (as previously defined). Two aggregate metrics (CO₂ Emissions and Annual Forest Loss) were excluded from this analysis because the normalization would be confounded with factors like population, size, and existing forest cover. If a country's metrics were the best across all measures, their total, averaged score would be 1. Similarly, the score would be 0 if their metrics were the worst across all measures. Unsurprisingly, no country had an average score of 0 or 1.

Because not all metrics are published for all countries, the analysis only considered countries for which at least 15 of the 19 remaining metrics were available, a total of 137 countries. Of these, the country with the highest total score was Iceland with an overall average of 0.88; the lowest was the Democratic Republic of the Congo at 0.32. The World metrics by this analysis averaged a bit below the median at 0.48.

The graph below shows these three sets of data (Iceland, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the world) with the normalized ranges for all the metrics grouped by domain. The separation of the ranges is very clear for the Political measures, significant for the Social measures, but there is much more overlap in the Environmental and Economic domains. Similar to the correlation observed between the Human Development Index and Ecological Footprint,

trade-offs exist between domains. Wealth may be gained at the expense of sustainability and equity, or environmental footprints may be reduced at the expense of well-being. Creating new possibilities for the world still calls for breakthroughs in these areas.

Across All Metrics, Global Bright Spots are Less Clear-Cut



CONCLUSION

Moving beyond averages and investigating bright spots and other outliers are examples of why participants with a promise or commitment are strongly encouraged to examine the data behind the scorecard graphs more closely. In order to be as empowered as possible in your commitment area, you can go to the websites that are the sources of the measures, review the components of the relevant indices, and examine the more detailed information that is readily available, to identify possible directions and actions you can take to make a difference.

ENDNOTES

- 1 Your individual ecological footprint can be estimated at <https://footprintcalculator.org/home/en>
- 2 2023/2024 UN Human Development Report, pp 39-40
- 3 Incarceration rate data for Hispanic Americans, another subgroup of interest regarding potentially disproportionate incarceration, are not clearly discernible in the DOJ data on race and ethnicity. Race and ethnicity are reported as orthogonal attributes with “White Hispanic” and “Black Hispanic” included in their respective racial groups.
- 4 World Inequality Database

Contact Details for the Scorecard Team

- For questions or comments about the scorecard charts, data, or analysis, contact david.flattery@post.harvard.edu.
- New scorecard team members are welcome. Contact david.flattery@post.harvard.edu.

Current members of the State of the World Scorecard Team (Landmark Training Academy Research Track):

Dave Flattery
 Rose Grant
 Wendy Keilin
 Nancy Kleiman
 Peg Miller
 Frank Quinlan
 Diego Robles
 Robert Thomas
 Geoff Wheeler

Original painting by Linnie Sterba



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